

Right Place. Right Size.

Loan fund transferred to assist small businesses

Non-profit financial institution will provide critical capital to Delaware companies

WILMINGTON, Del. (June 12, 2014) – Small businesses across Delaware will continue to have access to vital financial assistance thanks to the transfer of a fund from the Delaware Economic Development Office to First State Community Loan Fund (CLF).

First State CLF, a Wilmington-based non-profit community development financial institution, has committed to develop and administer the Delaware Revolving Loan Fund, which is regulated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and provides low-interest, longer-term loans to Delaware companies.

“Small businesses propel Delaware’s economy, providing a steady stream of revenue and serving as a reliable source of jobs. The transfer of the Delaware Revolving Loan Fund to First State Community Loan Fund provides stability to this pivotal sector,” Gov. Jack Markell said. “We applaud First State Community Loan Fund for taking on this program and assuming this role in Delaware economic development.”

The newly established Delaware Small Business Revolving Loan Fund totals \$1 million and will provide financing for Delaware-based small businesses. Loan size ranges from \$5,000 to \$200,000, with a 10-year maximum term. Most business purposes are eligible for the program.

The RLF is comprised of three funding sources:

- DEDO transferred the existing revolving loan fund, which was established in 2010, through a \$500,000 EDA grant, to First State CLF.
- First State CLF provided \$250,000 to allocate as part of the funding plan.
- DEDO committed a \$250,000 Delaware Strategic Fund Matching Grant.

Founded in 1992, First State CLF provides loan capital to small businesses, community organizations and developers of affordable housing throughout Delaware and in Chester and Delaware counties, Pennsylvania. The organization has awarded more than \$25 million in loans, creating more than 1,700 jobs, 1,300 daycare and charter school slots, and more than 200 affordable housing units.

“We are very appreciative of the funding that DEDO has made available for us,” said Van Hampton, President and CEO of First State Community Loan Fund. “It will enable us to continue supporting Delaware-based small businesses by providing them with the capital to help their business grow and prosper.”

Alan Levin, Director of the Delaware Economic Development Office, said DEDO was more than happy to facilitate the transfer.

“This places the Delaware Revolving Loan Fund in capable hands and gives small businesses the best chance to receive assistance for the long haul,” Levin said. “For years, Van and his team have been doing outstanding work for the State of Delaware. This is just one more example of the organization’s commitment to our state.”

For more information on the Delaware Small Business Revolving Loan Fund, contact Van Hampton at 302-652-6774 or vhampton@firststateloan.org.

About the Delaware Economic Development Office

The Delaware Economic Development Office is an executive state agency responsible for attracting new investors and businesses to the state, promoting the expansion of existing industry, assisting small and minority-owned businesses, promoting and developing tourism and creating new and improved employment opportunities for all citizens of the State. Visit dedo.delaware.gov.

About First State Community Loan Fund

First State Community Loan Fund is a non-profit Community Development Financial Institution that provides loan capital to small businesses, community organizations and developers of affordable housing throughout Delaware and Southeastern Pennsylvania (Chester and Delaware Counties). Based in Wilmington, First State Community Loan Fund provides a comprehensive array of financial and business development services for individuals at any stage of business. Founded in 1992, First State Community Loan Fund has awarded more than \$25 million in loans, creating more than 1,700 jobs, 1,300 daycare and charter school slots, and more than 200 affordable housing units. First State Community Loan Fund is a proud member of the [Opportunity Finance Network](http://OpportunityFinanceNetwork.org). Visit www.firststateloan.org.

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